



State Representative Donald B. Sherer

Dear Friends,

Communicating with you is a high priority for me, and I am happy to have met and spoken with so many of you at my local town hall meetings and at other events throughout the district.

This session turned out to be very productive after a rough start last year. Thanks to sound fiscal management and a sizable surplus we were able to make some very necessary adjustments. We fully funded this and next years' Teacher's Retirement Fund and put substantial money away for the Rainy Day Fund. Overall, it was a positive session as many of the issues I fought for came to a successful conclusion. I introduced and sponsored major bills authorizing additional mass transit improvements, including improvements to the Metro-North New Canaan branch and those to begin the use of our waterways to aid transportation. This follows last year's initiatives to fund new rail cars for all Metro-North commuters. I am pleased to report that once again I supported and we obtained more open-space for our State and I was successful in obtaining a hard-to-get grant for New Canaan to dredge Mill Pond. On these and other key issues, I have been working hard for you and Stamford and New Canaan.

I thank Gov. M. Jodi Rell for granting my request to add a local education expert to her commission that will recommend changes to the state school aid program. I will continue this fight for fair funding of our public schools. The current system siphons most state school aid to the three largest cities, Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven, leaving little for other towns and cities.

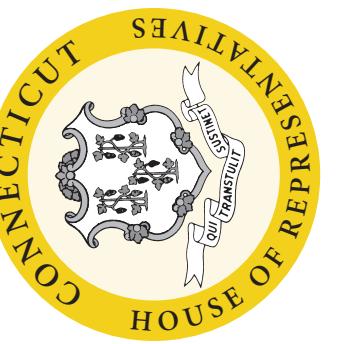
As always, I look forward to assisting with any state related issues that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me with comments, suggestions or concerns. Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you in our state legislature in Hartford.

Sincerely,



Representative Sherer and Representative John Stripp discuss proposed legislation during a House session in Hartford.

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit #3937



State Representative

DONALD B. SHERER

Proudly Serving the 147th District

Stamford ★ New Canaan

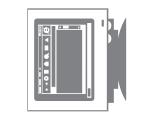


Representative Donald B. Sherer
Room 4200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

TELEPHONE:

(800) 842-1423

E-MAIL:
donald.sherer@housegop.ct.gov



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.housegop.ct.gov

2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
DONALD B. SHERER
Proudly Serving the 147th District
Stamford ★ New Canaan



Representative Sherer speaks during debate on the floor of the state House of Representatives at the Capitol in Hartford.

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

As in past years, I am working hard for taxpayers, children, families and senior citizens. I am happy to report that the legislature agreed to several initiatives to hold down spending, protect the environment, help families save for college education, improve transportation and stimulate job growth. If you would like further information, please visit our website at www.housegop.ct.gov. The following are some highlights:

Voting for Job Creation

Connecticut continues to lag behind the nation in new jobs and economic growth. I fought for legislation to roll back some of the high taxes that put Connecticut at a competitive disadvantage with other states. The property tax on manufacturing equipment will be phased out, the corporate tax surcharge that was reimposed last year will be eliminated, and tax credits will encourage companies to hire employees and produce movies in Connecticut.

New legislation will encourage innovation through faculty recruitment and an entrepreneurial center at UConn, provide funds for small business incubators, and create programs to finance early stage ventures and to match federal research assistance. The state will establish pilot math and science grant programs and student loan repayment grants for engineering and doctoral students. Several initiatives will promote research in the growing field of nanotechnology, a branch of engineering that deals with the design and manufacture of extremely small electronic circuits and mechanical devices built at the molecular level of matter. I was pleased to have had a major effect on this legislation as Ranking Member of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee.

For the Environment

The state will establish a greenhouse gas labeling program for new motor vehicles starting with 2009 models. New legislation will require public notification about contaminated sites and private drinking water wells.

Fighting for Transportation Improvements

With my strong support, the legislature authorized a 10-year, \$2.3-billion transportation package in addition to last year's \$1.3-billion plan that included 342 new cars for the Metro-North commuter rail line. Future authorized projects include more commuter rail service, stations and parking facilities and removal of I-95 bottlenecks.

Protecting Property Owners

The legislature created an Ombudsman for Property Rights to help property owners with eminent domain issues and disputes. It failed, however, to enact strong legislation that I co-sponsored to protect your property rights.

Working Hard for Children and Education

I continued the fight for more state aid for local public schools under the state's Education Cost Sharing formula. Some state school aid increases were approved, but at less than full funding. Good news is that families can now take a state income tax deduction when they save up to \$10,000 for a child's education in the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET). With my support, the legislature approved \$875 million in reimbursements toward local school construction projects.

State Budget

I supported adjustments to the state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. The budget provides \$245.7 million for the underfunded Teachers' Retirement System, \$85.5 million to pay off debt from the 2003 fiscal crisis, \$33 million in property tax relief to the towns and \$189 million saved in the state Rainy Day Fund for future economic downturns.

Taxpayers can take a property tax credit of up to \$500 when filing 2006 state income returns, up from \$400. A \$1-million program for adults with autism also is authorized.

To reform or repeal the Connecticut estate tax that was reimposed in 2005, I cosponsored amendments on the House floor. They were rejected by the Democratic majority. Gov. Rell proposed to eliminate the annual car tax, which also was not enacted by the majority.

Increasing State Aid to Stamford and New Canaan

Grants to towns will increase and aid for special education students goes up by \$35 million. State aid to Stamford will increase for the fiscal year beginning July 1 by \$528,273 plus a \$288,059 special education increase. New Canaan received a \$500,000.00 grant to dredge Mill Pond and \$400,000.00 for needed repairs to the roof of the Schoolhouse Senior Apartments.

To assure the concerns of Stamford area schools are represented, I successfully urged the governor to appoint a Stamford resident with strong education credentials to a commission studying the state Education Cost Sharing program. That commission continues to work throughout the rest of the year to recommend changes to school funding for cities and towns.



Rep. Donald Sherer congratulates two winners of the Stamford Elks' Flag Day essay contest. Sherer, a Coast Guard veteran, spoke at the Flag Day ceremony about the flag, veterans and patriotism.

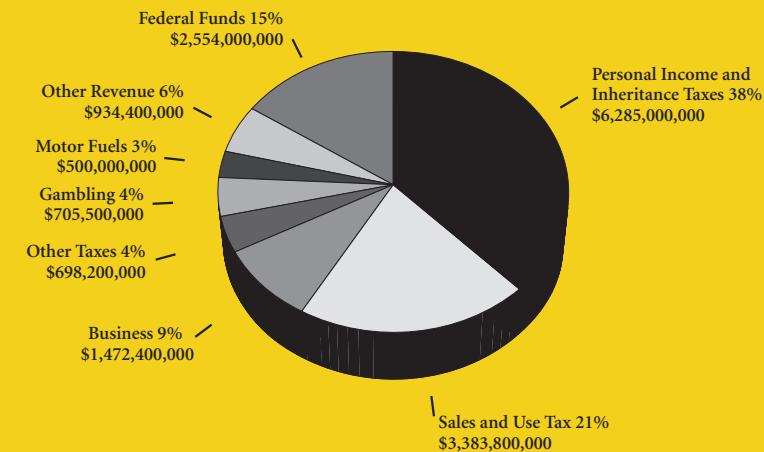
For Seniors/Veterans/Healthcare

A new law allows towns and cities to freeze property taxes for homes owned by people age 70 or older. Homemaker-companion agencies must register with the Department of Consumer Protection, and employees must undergo background checks. Legislation will protect the jobs and finances of National Guard members who are called up for state service such as natural disasters. The legislature updated Connecticut law on end of life decisions, hospital acquired infections data and umbilical cord blood banking.

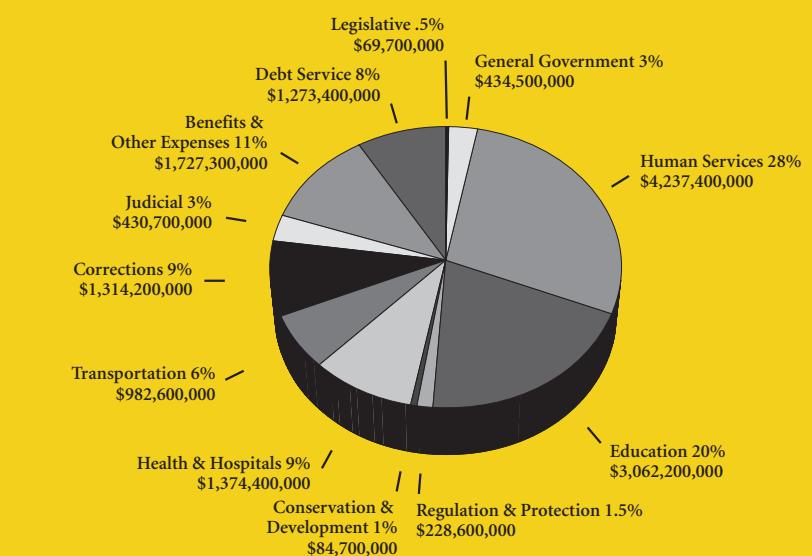
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.